

**TOY DISTRICT/DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JUNE 23, 2009
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS

Present: Ernie Doizaki, Donald Kanner, Howard Klein, Matt Klein, Larry Rauch, Mark Shinbane, Michael Tansey and Paul Vert.

Absent: Richard Gardner, Richard Meruelo and Bill Shinbane.

STAFF: Raquel King, Estela Lopez and Vicky McCormick.

CONSULTANTS: Qathryn Brehm, Ken Coelho and Don Steier.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vert called the meeting to order with a quorum at 9:21am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rauch made a motion to approve the May 26, 2009 minutes, and H. Klein seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

IV. FINANCE

Coelho reported that neither Toy or DID received assessment revenue in May, but did receive revenue in June, which will be reflected on the June financial report next month. Coelho informed the Board that both BIDs are ahead of 2008 for total revenue received to date.

In Toy, expenses are under budget \$15,000 due to a timing difference with the security and maintenance contract invoices. As of May 31, 2009 there is a total of \$129,000 cash in the bank.

Coelho reported that he reallocated the purchase of security cameras that were purchased by DID, because two were installed in the Toy District; Toy has now reimbursed DID for the cameras. Projected year end cash, at this time, for the Toy District is \$9,000. Coelho did note that he anticipates Toy will break even at year-end.

Coelho reported that in DID, expenses are under budget approx. \$19,000 due mostly to timing differences with the security and maintenance contract invoices. As of May 31, 2009 there is approx. \$353,000 cash in the bank. The projected year-end cash is approx. \$127,000, and is not expected to change significantly unless Assessment Revenue delinquencies are excessive compared to prior years.

Coelho informed the Board that the DID One account (prior BID) has \$44,000 in the bank. However, the DID One account currently owes the current BID \$14,000, leaving the total at \$31,000. The DID One account can be used for one time expenses.

Rauch asked if prior BID money should be spent this year. Coelho stated that the money doesn't expire, and there is no requirement that the funds be spent during a specific time frame.

V. DID BID RENEWAL

Lopez reminded the Board that the final public hearing is scheduled for July 14, 2009 at 10am in Council Chambers. Lopez stated that she hasn't heard of any opposition, but would still like to have three property owners present to speak in support of the BID.

VI. OPERATIONS

DID:

McCormick reported that in May encampments increased significantly. McCormick attributed the increase to the warm weather. The number of milk crates collected also increased.

McCormick informed the Board that the public safety teams are issuing letters to suspected illegal dumpers, informing them of the penalties for illegally dumping personal items on City or private property.

McCormick stated that Y-t-d 2009 responses/calls for service are higher than y-t-d 2008.

Doizaki stated that he has noticed more shopping carts on the sidewalks. McCormick stated that the number of shopping carts collected fluctuate from month-to-month. McCormick added that many of the shopping carts are from stores outside of the area.

Klein asked if the BID noticed an increase in graffiti. McCormick stated that graffiti has increased. The BID is working with the LAPD to identify taggers.

Klein stated that his property on 6th & Central Streets is being tagged daily at 3pm.

McCormick stated that she will have the BID public safety officers survey the area for taggers.

McCormick reported that the number of cardboard collected decreased slightly, but there is still a big problem with pallets; the number of pallets collected continues to grow. The number of trash bags collected y-t-d 2009 is significantly higher than y-t-d 2008. Graffiti is almost 100% removed.

Vert stated that the graffiti identified is 307, but the number removed is 201. Vert asked why all the graffiti identified had not been removed. Lopez stated that some of the graffiti identified is located too high up for the BID maintenance crew to remove, but the location is still documented and reported to the LAPD.

Toy:

McCormick reported that illegal dumping increased in May. Health & Welfare checks decreased. Y-t-d 2009 26,195 bags of trash have been collected; y-t-d 2008 14,310 bags of trash were

collected. McCormick stated that more and more trash bags are being dumped and are piling up around 1am on 5th and Los Angeles Streets.

McCormick informed the Board that she would be sending a meeting notice to the private building security guards in July to discuss public safety issues/concerns in the District, as well as to develop an effective information sharing system.

McCormick reported that the LAFD will provide an eight week training course plus certification to the BID public safety team in first responder/emergency response.

McCormick stated that the BID public safety team surveyed the Agatha alley due to the various issues that take place in the alley. There was an issue in which the BID public safety officers detained an assault suspect until LAPD arrived and made the arrest. The suspect who is also a parolee, attempted to charge an older gentleman a fee to park in the alley. The older gentleman refused, and the suspect pulled him out of his car and proceeded to beat him. A citizen witnessed the beating and intervened. The suspect walked away, and then returned with a claw hammer that he used to beat the citizen who intervened.

5th Street Corridor Project:

Lopez reported that CCEA asked the DA's office last year to extend the "Fifth Street Corridor Project" (enhanced sentencing of parolees re-arrested for drug violations in the Skid Row area along 5th & 6th streets). CCEA was seeking to extend those enhancements to arrests made on 7th Street, where narcotics activity is increasing. On June 16, Lopez and McCormick met with staff from the DA's office at CCEA. The DA's office sought the meeting to explain its decision against extending the boundaries at this time. According to the DA, judges have been generally supportive of the enhancements since the Project's inception, but might view an extension of the boundaries unfavorably thereby jeopardizing the Project's current success rate. Judges tend to be conservative in imposing enhancements.

Requesting the court impose such enhancements over a wider geographic area could potentially raise the court's discomfort level toward the project as a whole. That, coupled with the current budgetary limitations faced by the courts and correctional system, make this an potentially ill-timed request. DA staff noted that they would continue to monitor the activity along 7th Street to evaluate whether there is a pattern of increased narcotics activity attributable to parolees attempting to commit crimes outside the enhancement zone.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Street Parking Issues:

Lopez informed the Board that King has been inundated with calls regarding parking related issues including lack of loading zones, lack of employee parking and individuals who live in their RV or vehicle who take up street parking.

King informed the Board that she had been in contact with the LADOT regarding the issues. King reported that she and Lopez met with the CRA to discuss the various issues and pursue the performance of a parking study for the Industrial District to adequately address and solve the parking issues in the District.

MTA Regional Connector:

Brehm reported that she attended a meeting for the light rail transit route that will connect all MTA rail lines downtown, making it easy and convenient for riders to reach destinations. On August 5, 2009 the MTA will host another meeting to discuss portals, community concerns and issues. There will be three community meetings involving the following communities: Arts District and Little Tokyo, Financial District, and Bunker Hill.

Doizaki stated that if the Regional Connector travels up 2nd Street, it will kill business on that street and tie up Alameda Street.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Lopez reminded the Board that the 4th Anniversary Skid Row Walk will be taking place on Wednesday, July 1, 2009 at 6pm.

Kanner informed the Board that he joined the June Skid Row Walk, and it was very enlightening. The LAPD was fabulous, and Lopez shows such great empathy for the homeless.

Lopez stated that Councilwoman Jan Perry will do a press event at the walk, and LAPD Commander Andrew Smith will be present.

IX. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting of the Board was adjourned at 10:16am.